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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	25X1	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Living Conditions and Morale of Trudovaks at Konski Dol, Madan Okoliya		DATE DISTR.	11 August 1954	
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1. Trudovaks of Trudovak Battalion, Podelenie 14-90, Konski Dol, Madan Okoliya, subordinate to the 1 Sofia Trudovak Brigade at Chepelare (N 41-43, E 24-41), Asenovgrad Okoliya, are working on various underground and surface projects in Konski Dol, Batantsi, Madan, Gorna Petrovitsa (N 41-26, E 24-58), and Sharenka (N 41-29, E 24-55).
2. In the summer, Trudovaks working in Konski Dol live in tents. Each tent accommodates 16 Trudovaks, and there are generally 40 such tents in a camp. The men sleep in two opposite rows, eight Trudovaks to a side. In the winter, the camp is transferred to a barracks in Kamilski Dol. This is a 3-story masonry building located near the Madan highway bridge. Near this building is a 2-story structure which houses the Trudovak battalion staff; the mess hall is located on the first floor. In certain cases, Trudovaks are lodged in temporary Sovbolstroï (Soviet-Bulgarian Construction Company) quarters for the winter season.
3. In both summer and winter, Trudovaks are given one small blanket and one large blanket, two sheets, and one pillowcase. In winter, the soldiers also use their overcoat as a quilt.

25X1 4. [] the food served to the Trudovaks is insufficient in quantity and of extremely poor quality. The insufficiency of fats was particularly noticed. The men had the following diet:

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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a. Mornings: Vermicelli soup and thinly-sliced potatoes three times weekly; tea (one cup) with marmalade, ordinary cheese or yellow cheese during the remainder of the week; [] the marmalade was often hard, moldy, and sour, and that the cheese was wormy and rotten; complaints regarding this were made to the battalion physician who declared, however, that it was necessary for the men to eat whatever was given to them;

b. Noon: For lunch, the men were usually given two dishes, consisting of one cup of vermicelli soup with potatoes, and one cup of canned peppers, beans, or potatoes; meat was given twice weekly, but very seldom roasted with potatoes; salads and fruits were served twice weekly; and

c. Evening: The evening meal usually consisted of two dishes, chiefly beans and potatoes and macaroni or stewed fruit.

5. Brown bread was served at the rate of 800 grams per day. Trudovaks often complained of hunger, and the men frequently bought additional bread from outside.

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6. Cases of food poisoning occurred as a result of the poor and often rotten food which was served. [] the following men [] sustained food poisoning:

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a. Myumyum Ramadanov Mustafaov, who was hospitalized for three days;

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b. Enver Akhmedov [] from Trudovak Podelenie 14-90, who nearly died from food poisoning; and

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c. Rasim Khashim Naldzhiev [] a Trudovak from Podelenie 14-90.

7. Three work shifts were in effect, as follows:

a. First shift, from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.;

b. Second shift, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and

c. Third shift, 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m.

Theoretically, each shift lasted eight hours. For the second shift, however, where there was a 2-hour interval between the end of the second shift and the beginning of the third shift, the work day was actually 10 hours; that is, these two hours were really used for work time by the second shift.

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8. Work norms were in effect. According to the norm, 22 mine cars were to be transported during an 8-hour period; [] Trudovaks were [] 25X1 threatened with court action and imprisonment for non-fulfillment of norms []

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[] Usually, punishment consisted of loss of leave or public reprimand. Trudovaks worked quite disinterestedly. A minor incentive to work was offered them by the possibility of receiving leave on fulfillment of the norms, and by the possibility of receiving certain gratuities from Gorubso (the Bulgarian-Soviet Mining Company) for exceeding the required production.

9. Initially, every Trudovak received two leva monthly (sic) and Gorubso paid a bonus for exceeding the norm. However, this concerned Trudovak miners chiefly, and payments were based on the following scale:

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- a. For 100 percent fulfillment of the norm, Trudovaks received absolutely nothing; and
- b. For a given production over 100 percent, the Trudovaks were paid the same bonuses as civilians; these were Trudovaks who were mining specialists for whom the pay was 1,100 leva monthly (as, for example, Izet Kyamilov); Trudovaks working outside of the mines received a maximum of 60 leva for exceeding the norm production.

Meetings and Political Lectures

10. Trudovaks attended production meetings chiefly. The rest period following lunch was primarily used for their political indoctrination, during which time there were group political lectures, at which time vigilance and preparedness were urged, and the arrests of escaped Trudovaks and the punishments imposed upon them were publicized.

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Sanitation

11. Trudovak underwear was gathered twice a month and given to laundry women for washing. There was no charge for this service, other than the soap which was issued to them. Some Trudovaks preferred to do their laundry themselves.
12. Usually twice a month, but sometimes even less frequently, groups of Trudovaks were conducted to the public bath in Konski Dol. In winter, this was not done, and the men went without a bath for a period of months. During the summer, many of the men bathed in a nearby river.

Relations with Command Staff

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13. [redacted] the commanders of the Trudovaks hold themselves haughtily above the men and see to it that norms are strictly carried out. However, there were no incidents of assault or other rough tactics. Punishments inflicted most often were the loss of leave and reprimand before a group assembly. Friendly relations between Trudovaks and their officers is forbidden.

Leave

14. Leaves were not given during the work days of the week. It was possible to go to the movies only in groups of Trudovaks. A city leave was given usually only on Sunday from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., and only on the condition that the individual had fulfilled his norms for the week and was not guilty of an offense.
15. A home furlough was generally not given during the first 24 months of service. Exceptions are made only in the event of death of the father, mother, wife, brother, or sister. In such cases, a 3-day leave is granted. This, however, is effective only for Trudovaks who do not live farther than the locale of the Podelenie. For those who could not go and return in three days, the leave--even for such cases--was not granted. In order to let a Trudovak go on leave because of a death, it was necessary to receive a telegram from the respective village council to that effect.

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16. Generally, three days were granted for weddings, but only if the individual was from a nearby locality and if a telegram had been received from the respective village council to that effect.
17. Exceptions were not made for any other causes, even if a Trudovak showed himself to be a consistent shock-worker, until the expiration of the first 24 months. Following the expiration of the first 24 months, a 24-hour home leave was granted for exceeding production norms and for regularity in every respect. This, however, was essentially applicable to Trudovaks from nearby localities--mostly to those from Kurdzhali Okoliya. For those from farther away, a bonus home leave was not granted, regardless of production and regularity.
18. Temporary absence (absence without leave) from the barracks, especially of Pomaks and Turks from nearby villages, occurred very often.

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Personal Clothing

19. Upon entering on duty, each Trudovak was given two pairs of underwear (linen undershirts and shorts) which were exchanged for new pairs when worn out; the exchange was normally difficult.
20. In summer or winter, each Trudovak receives one set of work clothes of blue cotton cloth and one ordinary Trudovak blue cotton uniform. Upon receiving one set, the other is turned in. [redacted] the work clothes, without exception, were old, worn out, or patched in many places. New uniforms generally were not issued even for visits by important persons. Only Trudovak office workers had new uniforms.
21. Trudovak officers went everywhere in perfectly new outfits. They have epaulettes on their lapels.

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Discharge Certificate

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22. After completing his tour of duty, each Trudovak receives a discharge certificate (uvolnitelen bilet). [redacted] the certificate alleges that the bearer has completed 24 months of Trudovak duty.

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23. The 2 Platoon of Trudovak Company 14-90 of Trudovak Battalion 14-90 consisted of about 55 men, including about 15 Bulgarians, about 5-6 gypsies, 8-10 Pomaks, and about 25 Turks.
24. The platoon had a DSNM (Dimitrovski Sŭyuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth) organization of about 27-28 members. Two Trudovaks were members of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

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